PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN



Southeast Region Planning Group Master Plan

Overview

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recognizes sound master planning is a partnership effort. It must involve the people it serves and the management plan must be broadly supported as well as fit the capabilities of the properties. The DNR encourages citizen input throughout the planning process. This plan outlines the public participation strategy for soliciting public review and input into the development, evaluation and adoption of the master plan for the Southeast Region Planning Group properties listed below.

Wildlife Areas	Fishery Areas	State Natural Areas
Big Muskego WA	Honey Creek SBP	Beulah Bog SNA
Honey Creek WA	Eagle Lake FA	Genessee Oaks SNA
Karcher Marsh WA	Camp Lake FA	Mukwanago River SNA
New Muenster WA	Wind Lake FA	Peat Lake SNA
Paradise Valley WA	Silver Lake Marsh FA	
Tichigan WA	Hooker Lake FA	Parks and Recreation
Turtle Creek WA	Statewide Habitat Areas	Clover Valley SIATA
Turtle Valley WA		Genesee SIATA
Vernon Marsh WA		Ottawa SIATA
Scattered Habitat Areas		Kettle Moraine Railroad SIATA

Master Planning Process

The planning process is divided into three phases:

Phase 1

Phase one is the preparatory work by DNR staff. Current information on the properties' resources and public uses, as well as on regional demands and opportunities is needed as a foundation for the planning process. Prior to the announcement that planning is starting, the DNR is updating natural resource and recreational use data for the properties and collecting regional data in order to better understand the properties' current and potential functional role in the region.

Phase 2

Phase two is plan development. It begins with a formal public announcement that the properties' master plans will be revised. The announcement is soon followed by a public open house to share information on the process, get public feedback on important issues to be addressed in the plan, and to consider a preliminary vision and goals for the properties. The DNR will use this input along with other data to evaluate management options in the development of a draft master plan and environmental assessment.

Phase 3

Phase three is presentation of the draft revised master plan to the Natural Resources Board for approval.

Opportunities for Participation in Master Planning

Comments are welcomed throughout the planning process. In addition, public review and comment will be formally sought at three milestone points during the plan's development and approval process.

- At the beginning of the master plan development process. This will help identify property and planning issues, and to consider the preliminary vision and goals for the properties,
- Release of the draft plan and its environmental impact assessment, and
- Natural Resources Board offers the public an opportunity to provide input to them when they consider approval of the proposed master plan revision.

These opportunities for public input throughout the planning process will help shape the future management and use of these properties.

Ways to Make Your Voice Heard

Attend Public meetings: DNR staff will hold informal public meetings at key points during the master planning process to present and discuss information on the master plan proposals, and to listen to your comments and suggestions. These meetings will be held in the vicinity of the property.

Submit comments: If you are unable to attend a meeting or if you think of comments you want to give after the meeting you may submit comments to the planning team by e-mail, postal-mail or by phone. Contact information is provided at the end of this document.

How Decisions will be Made

To develop an effective property master plan, the DNR listens to many voices. Recreation users, commercial interests, landowners, conservation groups, elected officials, other government agencies, tribal representatives and/or other interested parties are all encouraged to participate. Input received at each major step in the planning process will be considered as the plan is developed.

Decisions on which ideas to incorporate into the plan will be made based on the following:

- type of property and its physical and biological opportunities and limitations,
- the best role of the property in its local, regional and statewide context,
- the professional expertise and resources available to DNR staff, and
- the plan must comply with applicable Federal Laws, State Statutes, Administrative and Department Codes, and facility design standards.

While a broad range of interests will be considered when developing the draft master plan, the final decision-making authority on the master plan rests with the DNR's citizen policy-making Natural Resources Board.

How the Department will Provide Planning Information to You

Issue Press Releases

Press releases will be issued at key stages of the project to announce public meetings, provide information updates and to solicit public comments.

Contact List (focus on email distributions)

The contact list will include landowners, user groups, sporting clubs, environmental groups, service groups, local government, agencies, state officials, and affected Indian Tribes as appropriate. This list will be used to keep interested parties informed about the planning process, upcoming events, public meetings and project decisions. Local and state newspapers and electronic news media will also be kept informed. You may sign up for the contact list by contacting the DNR at the address, email or phone numbers listed at the end of this document.

Provide a Web Page

The Department will set up a master planning web page where information about these properties can be obtained. The Southeast Region Planning Group webpage can be found at - . It contains descriptions of the planning process, draft plan documents, notices, planning progress reports and other important planning information.

Planning Reports

After each formal public input step the Department will provide a planning report to communicate the results of the review. Additionally, when needed, a progress report will be prepared to keep you informed on the status of the plan's development. These will be sent to everyone on the contact list and posted on the master planning website.

Conduct Special Meetings if Needed

Additional public meetings may be held, if needed, at various stages of the planning process to discuss specific issues in depth. All meetings will be publicly announced ahead of time. Focus group meetings may be held with selected representatives to work through special management issues or other concerns that may arise.

Consultation with Other Governmental Units

Throughout the planning process, the master planning team will also be consulting with local governments, state and federal agencies, and affected Indian Tribes on a government-to-government basis on mutual planning issues.

The master plan process is guided by the following state regulations:

- The plan will be developed within the parameters of Administrative Code, Chapter NR 1.60 and NR 44, which governs Master Planning for DNR properties and requirements of the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act.
- The Wildlife and Fishery Areas will be managed under authority of Sec. 23.09 (2)(d)3 Wis. Statutes. Natural Areas will be managed under authority of Sec. 23.27 Wis. Statutes.
- Wildlife Areas are managed and developed in accordance with Administrative Code, Chapters NR 1.51 and 1.61.
- Fisheries Areas are managed and developed in accordance with Administrative Code, Chapters NR 1.01 and 1.02.
- Rules governing the general management and use of State Natural Areas are outlined in Administrative Code, Chapter NR 1.32.
- Public use activities on DNR properties are governed by Administrative Code, Chapter NR 45 (Use of Department Properties).

Additionally:

These properties have either been purchased or managed using funding from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (also known as the Pittman-Robertson Act). The statutes and applicable regulations prohibit a state fish and wildlife agency from allowing recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State acquired, developed, or is managing the land.

Contact Information:

To give comments on the planning process, to receive materials, or to sign up for the contact list, please contact:

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Property-specific comments or questions contact:

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